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Columbus City Attorney Zach Klein Asks Board to Deny Parole to Man Sentenced to 28-100 Years for Attempting to Kill Four Police Officers

Convict eligible for parole after pleading guilty in 1981 to four counts of attempted murder

COLUMBUS, OH—Columbus City Attorney Zach Klein urged the Ohio Parole Board to keep Tony Sayre behind bars to continue serving the sentence of 28-100 years in prison he received after pleading guilty to four counts of attempted murder in 1981. Sayre shot four officers as they were attempting to serve a search warrant. Three of the officers were nearly killed, while Officer Jane Thompson (Bowman) eventually succumbed to her injuries several years later.

City Attorney Klein referenced in his petition to the parole board that the senseless shooting occurred only after Sayre knew that the people he was shooting at were police officers.

“Police officers have a very tough job and risk their lives to serve and protect the public every day,” said Columbus City Attorney Zach Klein. “This is a somber reminder of both the risk officers take in putting on the uniform and the ultimate sacrifice they are willing to make. They take these risks and face these possible consequences so that we as a public don’t have to. To grant parole in this case would be to demean the seriousness of what Sayre did: target four police officers for murder.”

City Attorney Klein further cited in his letter that he represents both the Columbus Division of Police and the City of Columbus in his role as City Attorney and it is his “professional and moral duty to stand up and urge” the board to deny parole in this case.

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